

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 TRSE-00 SNM-02 BNDD-05 JUSE-00

SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /050 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N: GLANE: MHD

5/4/73 EXT 22622

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----- 114733

R 042120 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

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E. O. 11652, N/A/

TAGS: SNAR, AG

SUBJECT: ARREST OF ALGERIANS

1. ON MAY 3, ALGIN WASHINGTON INFORMED THE DEPT THAT TWO ALGERIAN SAILORS HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR SALE OF NARCOTICS IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON APRIL 19. DEPTOFF HAS SINCE SPOKEN WITH BUREAU OF CUSTOMS OFFICIAL AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN BATON ROUGE; BOTH CONFIRM THAT TWO ALGERIANS, CHANTOUT KASSA AND RAMOUL HAMID, WERE OBSERVED MAKING A SALE OF MARIJUANA BY USG AGENTS ON APRIL 18 AND ARRESTED NIGHT OF APRIL 18/19. WITH ASSISTANCE OF DEPT, BOUSSELHAM TELEPHONED THE ACCUSED WHO ARE BEING HELD IN PARISH PRISON, BATON ROUGE. THEY REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM THAT SOMEONE FROM THEIR SHIP (THE SETIS, ALGERIAN REGISTRY, BELONGING TO CNAN) HAD OFFERED NARCOTICS FOR SALE AND HAD MADE ONE TRANSACTION ON APRIL 17 BUT THAT THEY WERE INNOCENT. BOUSSELHAM HAS INFORMED FONMIN, ALGIERS, WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY CONTACTED THE SHIP. THE CAPTAIN'S VERSION TENDS TO SUPPORT SAILOR'S STORY. (FYI ONLY: CAPTAIN'S RELIABILITY IS QUESTIONABLE, SINCE HE DID NOT COOPERATE

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IN CUSTOMS' SEARCH OF HIS SHIP FOLLOWING ARREST OF TWO
SAILORS END FYI.

2. LOUISIANA AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE WITH
THE DEPT AND HAVE ASSURED US THAT ALGERIAN DEFENDENTS HAVE
BEEN GIVEN FAIR TREATMENT AND ADVISED OF THEIR RIGHTIFIED IN ADVANCE
OF ANY
IMPENDING OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO BEIRUT.
HOUGHTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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